DC

150

ABSOLUTE POWER TIE-IN

BATMAN™

ZDARSKY
JIMÉNEZ
COWAN
HAWTHORNE
STANISCI
DI BENEDETTO
MOREY
FAJARDO JR.

13+
TEEN

Jorge Jimenez 2024
SÁNCHEZ

DC
JULY
SUPERMAN
ACTION
COMICS
#1067
THE MAN OF STEEL FIGHTS FOR TWO WORLDS AS
SUPERMAN SUPERSTARS
CONTINUES!
Writer
GAIL SIMONE
and artist
EDDY BARROWS
return to Superman for a three-part adventure set in the early days of his crime fighting career!
Plus, a Lois Lane story from *New York Times* bestselling writer RAINBOW ROWELL and artist CIAN TORMEY!
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TEDDY, IF WHAT YOU'RE TELLIN' ME IS TRUE...
...YOU BETTER BE CAREFUL.
FLANNIGAN! I'M TELLING THE TRUTH!
I WAS HITTING HIGH ROLLERS, YOU KNOW, BACK WHEN CATWOMAN WAS TRAINING GUYS...
...AND ONE OF THE MARKS I HIT...
...I FOUND HIS...HIS STUFF IN HIS HOME. YOU KNOW...
...HIS BAT STUFF.*
THAT'S GOTTA BE WORTH SOMETHING, RIGHT? HIS REAL NAME? I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, MAN. I JUST NEED SOME MONEY.
TEDDY, LISTEN TO ME CAREFULLY...
...THIS #$@% IS ABOVE YOUR PAY GRADE.
YOU DON'T WANT TO MESS WITH HIM. TRUST ME.
*/N GOTHAM WAR: SCORCHED EARTH.
YEAH... I KNOW HE'S ROUGHED US ALL UP.
BUT I NEED THE MONEY, MAN. BEING A CAT BURGLAR DIDN'T PAN OUT, NONE OF THE MAIN GUYS ARE HIRING HENCHMEN RIGHT NOW...
HE'S JUST A GUY, YOU KNOW?
YEAH, I USED TO THINK SO TOO...
...BUT HE'S NOT. HE'S REALLY NOT.
HE'S SOMETHING... DIFFERENT. MORE DANGEROUS.
FOR A BRIEF SECOND, I THOUGHT HE WAS HUMAN...

"...A FEW YEARS AGO, ONE WEIRD NIGHT..."
FLANNIGAN! YOU GOTTA COME SEE THIS!
#$@%... IS THAT...?
I THINK SO...
...BUT IS HE DEAD?
HARD TO SAY...
...THOSE DAMN EYES ALWAYS LOOK OPEN...
MAYBE HE IS, MAYBE HE ISN'T...
...BUT HE AIN'T #$@%& MOVING...
...SO LET'S FIND OUT WHO THIS PIECE OF #$@% ACTUALLY IS...
JAKE, MAN...

...I DON'T KNOW. THIS GUY, HE'S...
...HE'S DANGEROUS.
YEAH, WELL...
...MAYBE THE GUY UNDER THE MASK...
CNK...
...ISN'T--
YAHHH!
"IT WAS LIKE WATCHING A DEMON COME TO LIFE.
"SOMETHING INHUMAN."

MY ADVICE? FORGET WHAT YOU'VE SEEN.
UNLESS YOU WANT EVERY BONE IN YOUR BODY BROKEN.
DON'T LISTEN TO FLANNIGAN...
...HE'S JUST SUPERSTITIOUS.
GUY AIN'T NO DEMON. HE'S A MAN...
...AND MEN HAVE SECRETS, SOME WORTH MONEY.
BUT--BUT WHO WOULD PAY?
LOOK, I KNOW THE MAJOR PLAYERS. I CAN GET YOU SIT-DOWNS WITH ALL OF 'EM.
INFO LIKE THAT? I BET YOU COULD PULL IN A COOL MIL. AND I'D JUST ASK FOR TEN PERCENT.
BY THE END OF THE DAY TOMORROW, YOU COULD BE A RICH MAN.
WHADDAYA SAY, TEDDY?
I...YEAH, PERCY.
LET'S GET RICH.
YEAH! FLANNY, GET US SOME SHOTS...
dclnk
...SO WE CAN TOAST THE FUTURE!

NHHHH... KIM?
#@$%, DID I...?
BANG ON MY DOOR AT THREE IN THE MORNING SO DOUSED IN ALCOHOL THAT I HAD TO KEEP YOU AWAY FROM OPEN FLAMES?
YOU STILL OFF COFFEE?
YUP.
HE MOVED OUT.
IS... IS YUTO HERE?
WAIT, WHAT?
OUR SON MOVES OUT AND YOU DIDN'T THINK TO TELL ME?
HE'S A GROWN-UP, TEDDY. IF HE WANTED YOU TO KNOW, HE WOULD HAVE TOLD YOU.
BUT HE DIDN'T.
I WONDER WHY?
DAMMIT, KIM, I'M TRYING!
I KNOW THINGS HAVEN'T PANNED OUT, BUT I GOT A LINE ON SOMETHING BIG! SOMETHING THAT'S GOING TO MAKE US--
STOP IT!

YOU'VE ALWAYS GOT "SOMETHING BIG" IN THE WORKS!
BUT I NEVER WANTED SOMETHING BIG!
I JUST WANTED YOU TO PAY ATTENTION TO OUR SON!
I-- I DID, I JUST--
I WAS ALWAYS SO BUSY. AND HE JUST--
IT'S LIKE AS SOON AS HE BECAME A TEENAGER HE INSTINCTIVELY HATED ME.
I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO TALK TO HIM...
YOU JUST HAD TO LISTEN.
UNDERNEATH IT ALL, HE WORSHIPS YOU, TEDDY. GOD KNOWS WHY, BUT HE DOES.
BUT #$@% LIKE THIS? STUMBLING HOME DRUNK WITH YOUR BIG IDEAS?
I JUST DON'T WANT WORSHIP TURNING INTO IMITATING.
I GET IT, KIM. I'M A LOSER.
YOU'VE BEEN #@$%$ CLEAR ABOUT THAT FOR YEARS.
ALL I'VE EVER DONE IS TRY TO PROVIDE FOR THIS FAMILY.
THAT'S CRAP, TEDDY, AND YOU KNOW IT. I HAVE A JOB. PEOPLE HAVE JOBS.
YOU HAVE A CHIP ON YOUR SHOULDER AND THE BIG IDEA THAT THERE'S AN EASIER WAY TO GET RICH, PULLING JOBS FOR PSYCHOPATHS IN HALLOWEEN COSTUMES.
YOU'RE 48 YEARS OLD. IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO START OVER.
THAT'S WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO, KIM.
START OVER.

MAN, I ONLY EVER WORKED FOR THE LOWER GUYS...
...LIKE VENTRILOQUIST. OR FIREFLY.
BUT THIS DUDE...
KNOCK KNOCK
HE'S FINE, MAN. JUST STAY CALM AND LOOK HIM IN THE EYE.
THE RIGHT ONE. HE CAN TELL.
THANKS FOR AGREEING TO SEE US! MY GUY HERE IS TEDDY, AND HE--
LEAVE US ALONE.
ALL OF YOU.
WE WANT TO TALK TO THIS MAN, UNDISTURBED.
I...MISTER... TWO-FACE.
IT'S AN HONOR, SIR. I'VE ALWAYS--
I KNOW WHO HE IS.
HIS "SECRET IDENTITY."
AND I'M SURE YOU DO AS WELL.
IT DOESN'T MEAN YOU KNOW WHO HE IS, THOUGH, NOT REALLY.
BUT I DO.

"TIME AND TIME AGAIN WE FIGHT. THE TWO OF US.
"THE FOUR OF US.
"AT ANY POINT I COULD UNDO HIS DUALITY.
"MAKE HIM ONE. MAKE HIM WHOLE.
"BUT GIVEN THE CHOICE BETWEEN HIS SIDES, IF HE WAS FORCED TO BE THE MAN OR THE BAT...
"...WHO DO YOU THINK HE'D CHOOSE?"

I-- I D-DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN...
OF COURSE YOU DON'T...
...YOU'RE SIMPLE. A COMMON THUG WHO CAN'T SEE REAL BEAUTY.
AND HIS TWO SIDES, HIS DUALITY, IS BEAUTIFUL.
BUT MORE THAN THAT...
...A PURE BAT WOULD DESTROY US ALL.
THE FUN WOULD BE GONE. HE'D BE RELENTLESS, A MONSTER FEEDING OFF OF ANYONE WHO DARED STEP OVER HIS LINE.
WE WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN.
WE WON'T... HNNN...
TIME FOR YOU TO GO, LITTLE MAN...
...I SUSPECT YOU'LL SOON DISCOVER...
"...EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE DEALING WITH."
WHAT HAPPENED?! YOU WERE SET! WHAT--
I--DON'T KNOW! H-HE WAS GOING TO KILL ME AND THEN--

OH GOD...
...OH GOD, OH GOD, OH GOD--
WHOA, MAN, RELAX!
THE GUY'S STAKING OUT ONE OF HIS MAJOR BADDIES! WE'RE NOTHING!
WE JUST GOTTA MOVE QUICKLY, YEAH?
LET'S BYPASS THE CRAZIES ON THE LIST AND GO TO THE ONES WHO UNDERSTAND BUSINESS...
...AND THAT YOU HAVE TO GAMBLE TO WIN.

"SOME GROUND RULES..."
...ONE: DON'T MENTION THEIR FATHER.
THE PENGUIN?
WHAT DID I JUST SAY?
KEEP YOUR HANDS WHERE EVERYONE CAN SEE THEM. GET TO YOUR POINT QUICKLY. THEY'RE BUSY PEOPLE.
COME IN.
IT'S AN HONOR TO MEET YOU...
...MS. COBBLEPOT, MR. COBBLEPOT.
I SEE THE CASINO IS THRIVING. NEW MANAGEMENT HAS DONE IT A WORLD OF--
SHUT UP. WHO ARE YOU? HIS AGENT?
$#@%# LEECH.
I KNOW WHY YOU'RE HERE, THEODORE CRITCHLEY...
...YOU AIN'T EXACTLY BEEN QUIET ABOUT IT.
YOU'RE ASKING ONE MILLION?
I...YES, MA'AM. ONE MILLION AND I'LL GIVE THE NAME TO YOU AND ONLY YOU.
EXCELLENT. EASILY DONE...

...WE CAN WIRE MONEY, BUT I'D PREFER--
I'M SORRY, ADDISON, BUT...
...WE HAVE A PROBLEM.
HMM...THIS LENDS SOME CREDENCE TO YOUR INFORMATION, PAL.
WE'LL GET YOU YOUR MONEY RIGHT AFTER WE TAKE CARE OF THIS INTRUDER.
I--OF COURSE...
HOLY #@$%, PAL, IT'S HAPPENING!
IN HALF AN HOUR, WE'RE--YOU'RE--GOING TO BE RICH!
TEDDY.
WH--ROGER? HOLY #$@%, MAN! NICE GIG YOU GOT HERE! LONG WAY FROM--
THEY'RE GOING TO KILL YOU.
YOU THINK THEY'LL LET YOU GO? JUST WALTZ OUT OF HERE?
THE POWER OF SECRET INFORMATION...
...IS BEING THE ONLY ONES WITH THE SECRET.
WAIT, WHO'S THIS GUY?
WE HENCHED TOGETHER A FEW YEARS AGO...FOR FIREFLY...AND...
...OH GOD, HE'S RIGHT... THEY'RE NOT GOING TO LET US WALK OUT OF HERE...
...WE'RE DEAD.
GOT HIM. MOVE QUICK, OR WE'LL--

SLAM!
NHHH... KOFF!
WHAT...
YOU IDIOTS!
I TOLD YOU WE NEED TO BE QUIET!
#$@% QUIET! WE BLOW #$@% UP AND TAKE WHAT'S OURS!
IS THIS THE GUY?
DAMMIT, CUTUP, YOU BETTER PRAY HE LIVES...
...'CAUSE HE'S NO GOOD TO US DEAD.

WAKEY, WAKEY, PAL...
NHHH...
ROGER? WHAT THE #$@% DID YOU--
WE RESCUED YOU, MAN.
YEAH, SO...
...YOU BETTER BE WORTH IT.
LEAVE HIM ALONE.
SORRY ABOUT CUTUP, HERE. I'M AHMAD AND THIS IS BELLE AND DARREN...
HEY.
...AND THIS IS SOME GINGER TEA TO CALM YOUR NERVES.
UH, THANKS.
#$@%, I RECOGNIZE YOU GUYS. YOU ALL--
HENCHED. YEAH, FOR GOTHAM'S WORST. WHEN CATWOMAN TRAINED A BUNCH OF YOU TO BECOME LOW-RENT CATWOMEN...
...WE STRUCK OUT ON OUR OWN, PILFERING SOME OF OUR BOSSES' GEAR.
SOME OF WHICH ACTUALLY WORKS...
I JUST--I'M SORRY, BUT THE FEAR TOXIN I TOOK JUST MAKES PEOPLE ANXIOUS INSTEAD OF AFRAID...

AND I DON'T NEED ANY OF THE JOKER'S #$@%.
OH PLEASE...
...YOU JUST THINK YOU'RE TOO MACHO FOR SQUIRTING FLOWERS.
TEDDY, WE NEED YOUR HELP.
WORKING WITH US COULD MAKE YOU INCREDIBLY RICH...
I...I'M TRYING TO GET OUT OF THIS KIND OF WORK.
I JUST WANT MONEY FOR INFO-- THAT'S IT.
AND WE WANT YOUR "INFO," MAN. THE IDENTITY.
I...WE AGREED, CUTUP. IT'S SAFER FOR ALL OF US IF WE DON'T KNOW IT. IF IT GETS WIDE, THE INFO WILL BE USELESS.
BUT...
...IF YOU'RE WITH US, HE'LL LEAVE US ALONE.
THE BIG BAD BAT DOESN'T WANT YOU GOING TO PRISON, 'CAUSE THEN YOU'LL DEFINITELY CUT A DEAL USING HIS SECRETS.
THE WORD IS ALREADY OUT THAT YOU KNOW WHO HE IS. IF HE SEES YOU WITH US...
BUT-- BUT WHAT IF HE...
...WHAT IF HE KILLS ME?
SERIOUSLY? I KNOW THE GUY'S SCARY, BUT TRUST ME...

"...YOU AIN'T GONNA DIE."
HRAH! IDIOTS! STOP HIM!
WE'RE TRYING, BOSS--
I HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING MYSELF!
"DON'T GET ME WRONG...
"...I DON'T WANT TO BE ON THE OTHER END OF HIS FISTS AGAIN..."
NGH!
"...BUT TAKE IT FROM ME...
"...THE GUY'S NOT A KILLER."

HE'S A "NICE-GUY MONSTER."
THAT'S MY EXPERIENCE, ANYWAY.
GUY'S #$@% WEAK. IF HE SHOWS TOMORROW, WE'LL JUST TAKE HIM OUT.
WAIT, TOMORROW?
WHAT'S HAPPENING TOMORROW?
BANK JOB. QUICK IN AND OUT.
ALL WE NEED FROM YOU IS TO JUST SHOW YOUR BEAUTIFUL FACE. IT'LL BE EASY.
LOOK, OUR OLD BOSSES ARE EGOMANIACS. ALL THEY EVER CARED ABOUT WAS SHOWING THE WORLD HOW #@$% SMART THEY WERE.
WE'RE TARGETED. BOOM. GET WHAT'S OURS. RUN.
YEAH. EASY MONEY.
WE'RE GONNA CLEAN UP. ESPECIALLY NOW...
...THAT WE GOT OUR SECRET WEAPON.

OKAY, ALMOST THERE...
...SO LET'S GO OVER IT ONCE MORE. BELLE TAKES POINT AND--
WOULD YOU JUST CHILL OUT, MAN? WE'VE GONE OVER THIS A MILLION TIMES!
SORRY, BUT...DON'T I GET A MASK?
KINDA DEFEATS YOUR PURPOSE, PEST CONTROL.
UH, HEY, GUYS?
WE'RE HERE.
I'LL KEEP THE VAN RUNNING...
ALL RIGHT, YOU #$@%! EVERYONE ON THE GROUND--
--NOW...

S-SORRY, GUYS...HE TOLD ME HE'D PUT IN A GOOD WORD WITH THE COPS...
UNBELIEVABLE.
HRRRR...
RRAHHH!
FZAH

RAHH-- NH!
KRNCH
AHHH!
COME ON, COME ON-- NF!
clnk clnk
I'LL KILL YOU, YOU #@$&-- YAHH!
FZAM KRAK
BAM SHNK
PLEASE, PLEASE, I CAN'T--
AHHHHH--

HNNN... WHAT...
...THE #$@%...
clk CHK
--SO I TOLD HER THE TEST WAS NEXT WEEK AND--
UH, YUTO, WHO...?
DAD?! WHAT THE HELL? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I DON'T... I DON'T KNOW... I...
I'M...GONNA GO. SEE YOU AT THE BAR?
I--YEAH. SORRY ABOUT THIS.
IS THIS... IS THIS A SCHOOL?
HOLY #$@%. IT'S FIVE IN THE EVENING AND YOU'RE THIS WASTED?
YOU'RE AT GOTHAM U!

YOU...GO HERE?
YOU GOT INTO UNIVERSITY?
FIRST-YEAR BUSINESS STUDIES. NOT THAT YOU CARE.
DID MOM SAY WHERE I WAS?
SHE DIDN'T. I JUST...IT DOESN'T MATTER.
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
I'M SORRY, "TELL YOU"?
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU DESERVE TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MY LIFE?
ALL YOU'VE EVER DONE IS MAKE MOM MISERABLE! AND SO DID I!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE SO DAMNED COOL, COMING AND GOING AS YOU PLEASED, DROPPING OFF WADS OF CASH...
...A GUN IN YOUR JACKET POCKET, BUSTED KNUCKLES FROM YOUR FIGHTS.
YOU'D COME HOME DRUNK, FIGHT WITH MOM...
...AND I'D TAKE YOUR SIDE!
I'D CALL MOM NAMES, MAKE HER FEEL EVEN SMALLER, AND JUST WAIT FOR YOU TO COME HOME AGAIN WITH YOUR #$@% STORIES AND CRUMBS OF ATTENTION!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE WHAT A MAN WAS SUPPOSED TO BE!
I AM! I HUSTLED! I PUT FOOD ON YOUR TABLE!
AND THIS IS HOW YOU TREAT ME?!
I DID IT FOR YOU! RISKED MY LIFE!
FOR YOU AND YOUR MOTHER!
NO, DAD, YOU DIDN'T...
...YOU HURT PEOPLE, HELPED MONSTERS, BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO.
BECAUSE YOU WERE TOO SCARED TO ENTER THE REAL WORLD AND HAVE ACTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES.
BECAUSE IT WAS EASIER THAN BEING A FATHER AND A HUSBAND...
...AND YOU WERE ADDICTED TO THE IDEA OF EASY MONEY.
BUT IT'S NEVER EASY, IS IT?
IT...IT ISN'T.
BUT YOU'RE ONE TO TALK.
YOUR MOM DOESN'T HAVE MONEY EITHER.
AND HERE YOU ARE IN ONE OF THE MOST EXPENSIVE SCHOOLS IN THE STATE.
YOU TELLING ME YOU GOT HERE BUSTING YOUR ASS IN A COFFEE SHOP?
I...DAMMIT, DAD, I LOOKED UP TO YOU...
SO MUCH. AND THEN I WENT OUT AND THOUGHT...
...MAYBE I COULD BE YOU.

"I KNEW WHERE YOU AND YOUR GUYS HUNG OUT. SO I WENT TO FLUNKY'S...
"...AND IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR SOMEONE TO SET ME UP.
"I KEPT THINKING THAT THIS MUST BE WHAT YOU ALWAYS FELT. A LITTLE BIT OF FEAR AND EXCITEMENT.
"AT FIRST IT WAS COOL, BEING PART OF SOMETHING DANGEROUS...
"...WORKING FOR SOMEONE DANGEROUS.
"SCARECROW WAS IN THE EARLY STAGES OF PLANNING SOMETHING. MOST OF WHAT WE WERE TASKED WITH WAS JUST GETTING HIM SUPPLIES...
"...UNTIL HE SHOWED UP.
"LIKE A STORM.
"AN EXPLOSION OF NOISE AND CONFUSION..."

"I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. HOW DO YOU FIGHT A STORM?
"BUT THEN...
"...SCARECROW FIRED HIS *FEAR GAS.*
"HE DIDN'T CARE THAT WE WEREN'T READY FOR IT. WE WERE JUST COLLATERAL DAMAGE IN HIS EYES.
"HIS NEW FORMULA WASN'T EVEN COMPLETE YET. ALL IT DID WAS...
WHOOM!
"...GIVE ME *ANXIETY.* THE ROOM SPUN, IT FELT LIKE MY HEART WAS GOING TO EXPLODE.
"I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE.
"HOW COULD YOU DO THIS?
"HOW COULD YOU GO OUT EVERY NIGHT, ALWAYS ON THE EDGE OF MAKING MOM A WIDOW, ME AN ORPHAN...
"...FOR NO GREATER CAUSE. HELPING *NO ONE...*"

"...UNLIKE HIM.
"I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT HE KNEW WHO I WAS. KNEW WHO YOU WERE.
"HE CALMED ME DOWN, LISTENED TO ME.
"NOBODY EVER LISTENED TO ME.
"I TOLD HIM WHERE I PICTURED MY LIFE GOING, VERSUS WHERE I WANTED MY LIFE TO GO.
"HE LISTENED.
"AND HE HELPED.
"HE PUSHED ME TO APPLY TO SCHOOL, EVEN SET ME UP WITH A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO HELP PAY FOR IT.
"I ASKED HIM WHAT HE WANTED FROM ME. NOTHING'S FREE, RIGHT?
GOTHAM UNIVERSIT
"BUT HE ONLY HAD ONE ASK. JUST ONE."
BE BETTER.

HOMELESS
"BE BETTER."

"BE BETTER."
I'VE... I'VE GOT TO GO, DON'T I?
I'M AFRAID SO, TEDDY.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID ANYTHING TO ANYONE.
THE WHOLE DAMN CITY KNOWS THAT I KNOW.
I JUST WANTED TO... TO...
OTHAM
RSITY

I KNOW, TEDDY. BUT WHAT'S DONE IS DONE.
I HAVE A PLACE IN METROPOLIS FOR YOU. A JOB, A NEW IDENTITY.
HE'S GOING TO BE OKAY, ISN'T HE?
HE'S NOT GOING TO TAKE AFTER HIS OLD MAN?
ALL WE CAN HOPE FOR IS THAT OUR KIDS TAKE AFTER THE BEST PARTS OF US.
HEH... GUESS I GOTTA FIGURE OUT WHAT THOSE PARTS ARE.
I KNOW...
...THAT I COULD JUST TELL EVERYONE. IF EVERYONE KNEW, NO ONE WOULD COME FOR ME.
AND I KNOW YOU KNOW THAT.
BUT MAYBE THIS IS ME FINDING MY "BEST PARTS" FINALLY.
MAKING SURE YOU CAN STILL HELP PEOPLE...LIKE MY SON...
YOU'VE STILL GOT TIME AND A FRESH START.
"GO MAKE A NEW LIFE, HELP PEOPLE...
BUS
"...BE THE MAN YOU WANT YUTO TO BE."

BE BETTER

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BATMAN created by BOB KANE with BILL FINGER

That damned gun made it easy that night. A swivel of the arm, the tug of a finger...
...and my parents were dead.
I eventually made Joe Chill pay, but it didn't fill the void that wanted justice, that wanted answers.
The gun was a Sims P90 semiautomatic. When I turned 18 and inherited my trust fund, the first thing I bought wasn't a car, wasn't a place downtown...
...it was Sims Firearms. The whole damned company.
I shut it down. Offered its employees jobs at Wayne Enterprises.
SIMS FIREARMS
Joe Chill killed my parents...
...but he couldn't have done it without that gun.
I tore that building down, brick by brick. But the men at the top, the men who took my money...
...they didn't pay. They profited.
How far was I going to take it? Would I hunt them down next? The ones who willed those guns into the world?
I think about that now...

...since I willed my own gun into the world.
BRICK BY BRICK
CHIP ZDARSKY WRITER
MIKE HAWTHORNE PENCILER
ADRIANO DI BENEDETTO INKER
ROMULO FAJARDO JR. COLORIST
CLAYTON COWLES LETTERER
Amanda Waller took my gun, Failsafe, and added her own.*
*ABSOLUTE POWER #1 IS IN-STORES NOW!
Amazo robots with the powers of my friends.
A relentless attack on heroes, depowering them, cutting us off from each other as she rounds us all up.
I've been so consumed by my own fights that I didn't see it coming. And now...

BLÜDHAVEN.
..the resistance has started under cover of night.
We're scattered, afraid, as Waller takes control of the world...
...and I keep telling myself it isn't my fault. That she would have pulled this off without Failsafe...
...but I don't know if I believe that.
Will I soon have to tear my life down, brick by brick, like I did that factory once upon a time?
I need a way to stop Waller.
And from what I can tell, the answer may be in Titans Tower, which is crackling with power, a beacon to our enemies.
Waller's army, this so-called Task Force VII, are machines. And there's one man alive who can track them, maybe even disable them...
...and he's the only one left in the Tower, out in the open, despite the danger.
The Titans' greatest asset...
VICTOR.
NHH... BATMAN...

...Cyborg
...WALLER HAS A VIRUS... IT'S TRYING TO SHUT ME DOWN.
I'M--I'M GETTING AROUND IT...BUT JUST BARELY...
YOU'RE EXPENDING TOO MUCH ENERGY. WALLER WILL COME TO PHYSICALLY SHUT YOU DOWN NEXT.
TIME IS RUNNING OUT. ARE YOU LEARNING ANYTHING?
SHE'S...SHE'S EVERYWHERE...BUT I'M DETECTING...A STRONG POWER SOURCE...
...SOUTH OF GAMORRA... IT'S...
...OH GOD... BATMAN...
...IT'S A MOTHER BOX. SHE HAS A--

SMASH
Ah, of course you would be here, the ever-vigilant Batman of Gotham.
Dammit, an Amazo
Okay, I assumed Failsafe duplicated his programming for his robot army...

This is larger than Gotham, larger than some simple basher like yourself.
...but their diction, their word choice, that accent...
This Amazo sounds almost...
...Victorian?
The priority here is to protect Cyborg.
KOOM
KOOM
TOOM
You fight for no reason.
He's the key to stopping this.
We're simply achieving what you couldn't:
A world without crime.

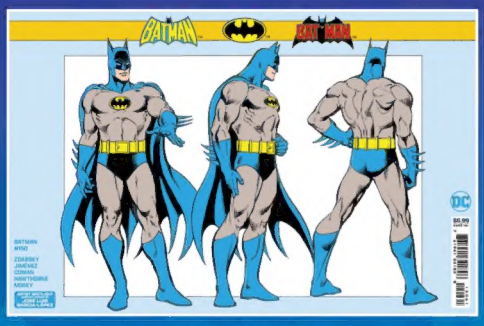
HN! GOT YOU, YOU--
CYBORG, RUN! WE NEED YOU FOR--
HNG!
Dammit!
I can't let him be taken like the rest!
KLANG
They're as strong as Diana, but I have to keep trying. Have to--
...but you lack my power.
Hr. You have my will, I'll grant you that...

KRKPAK
KRNCH
Paradise Lost, you're needed back at base immediately
Keep your air on. I'm in the middle of rounding up more of them and--
Now, We're at war and ignoring orders ends lives
You're a Batman. You save lives
Hn. Well, you'll have to do today, metal man.
I'm the gunmaker

I know I'll have to pay for this.
I'm already paying as another knot twists in my gut.
But my friends are being rounded up, hurt.
There'll be time later to fall on my sword. For now I need to help put an end to this...
...and to take apart my damned gun.
BATMAN.
DIANA. HERE.
BRUCE. WE. NEED. AN. UPDATE.
The Flash. With communications down...
IS CYBORG SAFE?
...he's acting as a relay for all the heroes still free.
Staying one step ahead of Waller's army, constantly moving.
One of the only heroes who still have their powers.
TAKEN. BUT I BELIEVE HE FOUND WALLER'S POWER SOURCE.
EVEN IF IT ISN'T, IT'S INCREDIBLY DANGEROUS IN HER HANDS.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE, AND THE ADVENTURE BEYOND CONTINUES IN THE PAGES OF *ABSOLUTE POWER!*

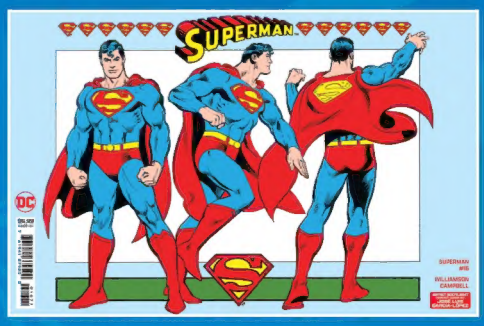
LEGENDARY ARTIST
JOSÉ LUIS GARCÍA-LÓPEZ
GETS THE SPOTLIGHT IN THESE AWE-INSPIRING VARIANT COVERS!



BATMAN #150

SHAZAM! #13

GREEN LANTERN #13



SUPERMAN #16

WONDER WOMAN #11

GREEN ARROW #14

THE FLASH #11

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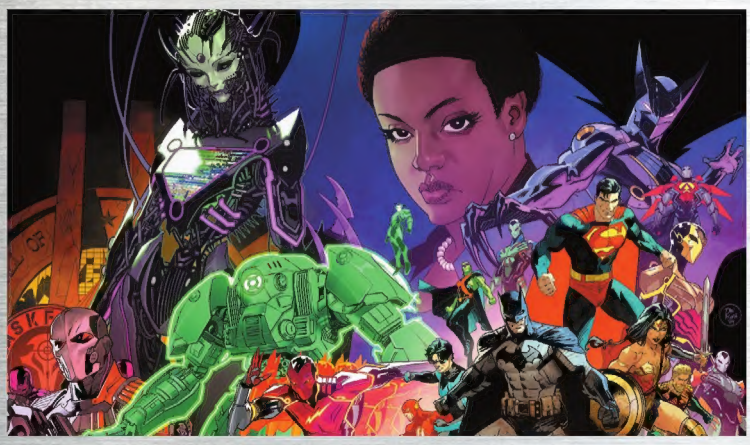
On sale in JULY

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

ABSOLUTE POWER

INTERVIEW WITH MARK WAID

Thanks to the combined forces of Failsafe and the Brainiac Queen, Amanda Waller has stolen the metahuman abilities of every hero and villain on Earth. But it's not the powers that make DC's heroes super, and in *Absolute Power* by the superstar team of writer Mark Waid and artist Dan Mora, a resistance will rise to take the fight to Waller's Task Force VII—though the odds have never been worse for our heroes.



Mark, what does taking away the powers of DC's heroes allow you to explore in these characters that fans haven't seen before?

Genuine, down-to-the-bone fear. Not only are the heroes utterly powerless, but every resource has been taken from them. Because Waller knows everyone's secrets, she's been able to cut heroes off from their home bases and strip them of their equipment—no Bat-arsenal for you, Bruce; no Terrifictech for you, Mr. Terrific; no lasso for you, Wonder Woman. Waller's sealed the time stream. She's walled off the Multiverse and the Microverse. She's had the Earth quarantined by the United Planets, leaving the heroes nowhere to run, nowhere to retreat. Ordinary people won't help the heroes because Waller's used A.I. fake news to convince humanity that the heroes have gone berserk. And the relentless Amazos just won't stop hunting them, not for one second.

Remember, I've read every single DC superhero comic ever, and I am here to tell you, I set out to make things more hopeless for our heroes than they have ever been. And that's just in the first issue.

***Absolute Power* encompasses multiple heroes and villains from across the DC Universe. Who are you having the most fun writing in this story? Which characters should readers keep an eye on that might be unexpected?**

I think everyone will be surprised at who's leading the powerless heroes—it's not Superman, Batman, or Wonder Woman, but the choice, to me, was obvious. Jon Kent and Dreamer have also become major players, as has Steve Trevor.

Plus, from the Island of Totally Forgotten Heroes, we've drafted Air Wave into the fight for a very specific reason. And what the hell is happening with Green Arrow, man?

Fans are familiar with the pairing of you and Dan Mora from *Batman/Superman: World's Finest*, but what are you seeing from his work in *Absolute Power* that has surprised you?

I didn't know Dan *could* surprise me any further, but I was wrong. The stakes in *Absolute Power* are so, so much higher than they are in *World's Finest*, and Dan expertly creates a sense of dread that permeates every page of this book.

DON'T MISS ABSOLUTE POWER #1, ON SALE IN JULY!

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